

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A stylus for use with a touch screen having a digitizer, said stylus comprising:
 - an elastic member;
 - a first end cap tapered to a point and coupled to said elastic member;
 - a second end cap coupled to said elastic member;
 - a plurality of mid-segments coupled to said elastic member between said first and second end caps.
2. A stylus as described in Claim 1 wherein said mid-segments are operable to interlock with each other, said first end cap and said second end cap to form a rigid member.
3. A stylus as described in Claim 2 wherein said stylus is operable to become flexible when said first end cap is pulled away from said second end cap to disengage interlocking members of said mid segments and said first and second end caps.
4. A stylus as described in Claim 1 wherein said elastic member is a spring.

5. A stylus as described in Claim 1 wherein said elastic member covers the outside of the stylus.

6. A stylus as described in Claim 1 wherein said stylus locks together by twisting said first end cap relative to said second end cap.

7. A stylus as described in Claim 1 wherein said plurality of mid-segments are hollow.

8. A stylus as described in Claim 7 wherein said elastic member is a spring and wherein said spring comprises hooks on both ends and wherein said spring is extended within said hollow mid-segments.

400826-022002

9. A portable electronic device comprising:
 - a processor coupled to a bus;
 - memory coupled to said bus;
 - a touch sensitive display screen coupled to said bus; and
 - a stylus comprising:
 - an elastic member;
 - a first end cap tapered to a point and coupled to said elastic member;
 - a second end cap coupled to said elastic member; and
 - a plurality of mid-segments coupled to said elastic member between said first and second end caps.
10. A portable electronic device as described in Claim 9 wherein said plurality of mid-segments comprise interlocking members to interlock with each other, said first end cap and said second end cap to form a rigid member.
11. A portable electronic device as described in Claim 10 wherein said stylus becomes flexible when said first end cap is pulled away from said second end cap to disengage said interlocking members.
2. A portable electronic device as described in Claim 10 wherein said elastic member is a spring.

13. A portable electronic device as described in Claim 10 wherein said elastic member covers the outside of the stylus.
14. A portable electronic device as described in Claim 10 wherein said stylus locks together by twisting said first end cap relative to said second end cap.
15. A portable electronic device as described in Claim 10 wherein said plurality of mid-segments are hollow.
16. A portable electronic device as described in Claim 15 wherein said elastic segment is a spring comprising hooks on both ends and wherein said traverses through said plurality of hollow mid-segments.
17. A portable electronic device as described in Claim 10 wherein said stylus can be stored along more than one side of said portable electronic device.
18. A portable electronic device a described in Claim 10 wherein said portable electronic device is a PDA (personal digital assistant).
19. A bendable stylus for use with a miniaturized portable electronic device, said stylus comprising:
an elastic member;

a first end cap tapered to a point and coupled to said elastic member;
a second end cap coupled to said elastic member; and
a plurality of mid-segments coupled to said elastic member between said
first and second end caps.

20. A stylus as described in Claim 19 wherein said plurality of mid-segments interlock with each other, said first end cap and said second end cap to form a rigid member.

21. A stylus as described in Claim 20 wherein said stylus becomes flexible when said first end cap is pulled away from said second end cap to disengage said plurality of mid-segments.

22. A stylus as described in Claim 19 wherein said elastic member is a spring.

23. A stylus as described in Claim 19 wherein said elastic member covers the outside of the stylus.

24. A stylus as described in Claim 19 wherein said elastic member is a spring and wherein said spring comprises hooks on both ends and wherein said spring traverses through said plurality of hollow mid-segments.

25. A stylus as described in Claim 19 wherein said elastic member is a clear tube.

26. A stylus as described in Claim 26 wherein said plurality of mid segments are different colors.

TOP SECRET - SOURCE